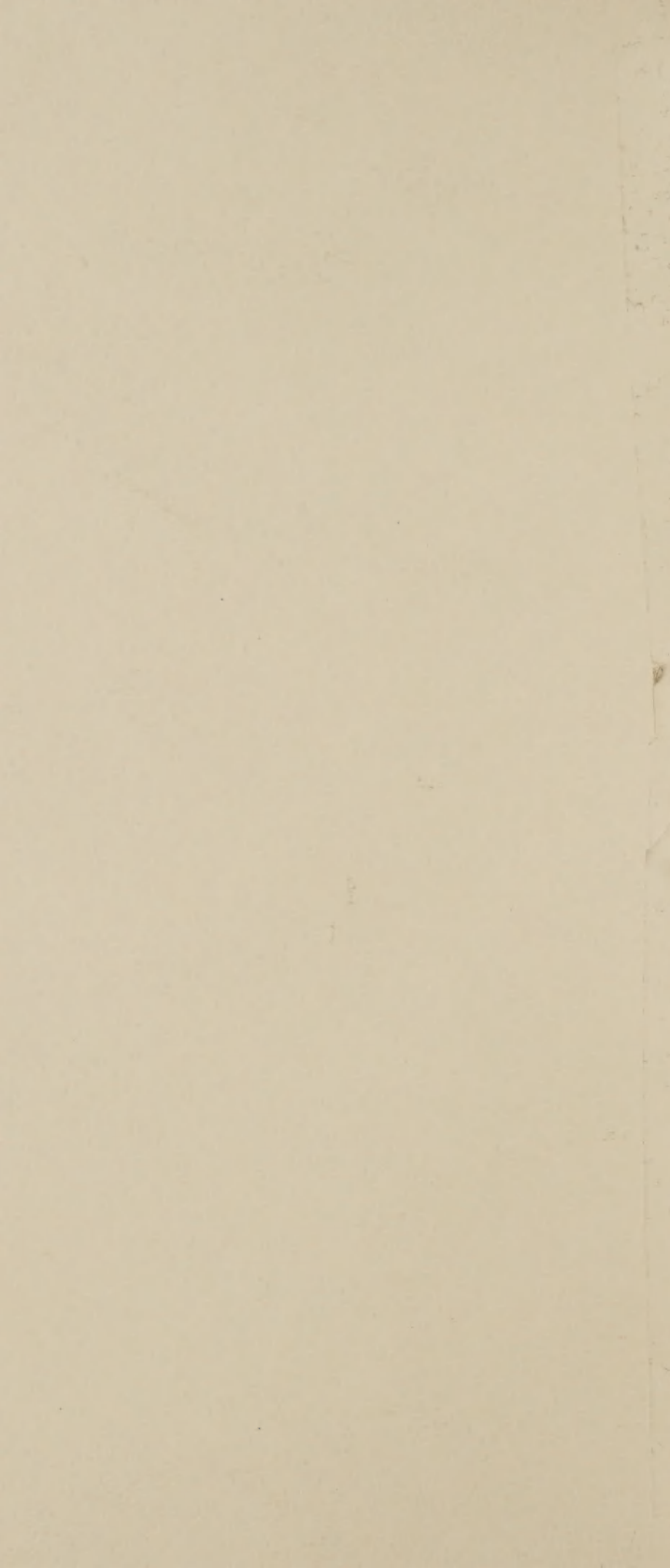


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AIR POTATO

Dioscorea bulbifera

Reserve
aSB612
.A2A35
2000



INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES



USDA Forest Service
Southern Region
National Forests in Florida

environmental impact

Air potato (*Discorea bulbifera*)

- Is a non-native, exotic plant (from tropical Asia, Africa) without native insects or diseases to keep its growth in check
- Disrupts native plant communities by forming impenetrable vines on native trees and shading out understory vegetation
- Negatively impacts wildlife dependent on native vegetation for forage, nesting, and cover
- Interferes with ecosystem integrity by threatening biodiversity and ecosystem stability in natural areas
- Increases taxes or fees required to offset costs associated with invasive plant management

identification

- Perennial, twining vine that reaches well into the canopy of 60 plus foot tall trees
- Alternate, broad, heart-shaped leaves with prominent parallel

veins that converge at the basal lobes

- Large numbers of aerial bulbils resembling potatoes form in the leaf axils in late summer
- Plants die back to tubers in winter
- Found from uplands to lowlands

If you are still in doubt, county extension agents are able to assist with the identification of plants.

control methods

- Hand pull or disconnect vine-stems to prevent aerial "potato" (bulbil) production; every "potato" is a potential new plant.
- Dig up underground tubers or germinating "potatoes." Place them in a black plastic bag until they have degraded, or burn them.
- Continue to hand pull sprouting vines to deplete the food reserves of germinated "potatoes."
- If aerial "potatoes" have already formed, hand pick and place them in a black plastic bag until

they have degraded, or burn them.

- A 1% triclopyr ester or a 1% glyphosate solution will kill the vegetative part of the plant (foliar application).
- Cut stem treatment with 50% triclopyr amine or 10% triclopyr ester applied within 5 minutes of cutting will be translocated to the underground tuber *.
- Basal bark treatment of 10% triclopyr ester applied to stems emerging from tubers will be translocated to the underground tuber.
- If "potatoes" are present on the vines, a basal bark treatment should be used; herbicide will be translocated to the "potatoes".

Triclopyr products, such as Brush-B-Gon®, and glyphosate products, such as Roundup® and Rodeo® (labeled for aquatic areas), are available in local garden and hardware stores. Always use herbicides according to the label. Remember: The label is the law!



CAUTION

Pesticides used improperly can be injurious to humans, animals, and plants.

- Read, understand, and follow the label.
- Learn and follow all State and local rules.
- Store pesticide safely in original containers.
- Apply pesticides so that they do not endanger humans, or non-target animals or plants.
- If a pesticide is swallowed or gets in the eyes, follow the first-aid treatment given on the label, and get prompt medical attention.
- If a pesticide is spilled on your skin or clothing, remove clothing immediately and wash skin thoroughly.
- Do not clean spray equipment or dump excess spray material in or near water.
- Dispose of empty pesticide containers properly and promptly.

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Use Pesticides Safely
FOLLOW THE LABEL

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